

Spectrum



(Above) The sign at the Pole Orchard, located off North Range Road, marks the 25L Cable Systems Installer-Maintainers, (commonly known as linemen or cable dogs), training site. (Right) Interns in the Army Materiel Commands Fellows course visit the Pole Orchard May 21 to experience first hand some of the training Soldiers in the 25L career field undergo at Fort Gordon.



Photos by Bonnie Heater

Future leaders learn Signal Warrior life

Bonnie Heater

Signal staff

Some future managers for the Army now know what a cable dawg does.

Army Materiel Command and U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command fellows visited Fort Gordon May 19-23 for a close look at how Signal Warriors train and what their specific needs are. The ultimate goal is to position these civilian leaders to provide better support to warriors' missions.

The group of fellows was escorted by Jerry Peek, AMC fellows' course director from the AMC Logistics Leadership Center at the Red River Army Depot in Texarkana, Texas. "I brought 18 of the 113 interns who are presently in the program," he said. They are from all over the country. Most are college graduates; some are former military members.

AMC and TRADOC fellows go through a highly selective application process before being accepted as an intern in the five-year program. According to Peek, the purpose of the program is to develop multi-functional Army support organization leaders. They will finish the program as mid-level to upper level managers.

"We are trying to revitalize the civilian work force of the Army," Peek said.

Fellows spend their first 13 months doing formal graduate level coursework at the AMC Logistic Leadership Center and Texas A & M University.

As part of their training the interns start as GS-7 civilians as they go through Army Field Experience Training. This training is designed to introduce the interns to the organizations of the Department of Defense and their functions.

"They're learning what the Soldiers do, what they do in the field, what they do at the training facility," Peek said. "In August the fellows will graduate from Texas A & M University with either a Master of Business Administration or Master in Science and Structure Technology degree."

Four or five years later after graduating from the program most are expected to be working at the GS-13 level. The target goal for the fellows in the program is Senior Executive Service.

During the Army Field Experience Training at Fort Gordon on May 21 the fellows learned about the Signal Center. They were provided briefings from the Signal Center, School of Information Technology, School of Telecommunications Technology, as well as the opportunity to

watch actual training and hands-on activities. Their visit to the Leader College for Information Technology guided them through the process of how the Signal Center teaches its officers, warrant officers and non-commissioned officers.

The tour provided the students insight into the technical training provided at the school along with a view of the Information Assurance and Cisco Labs.

At the Pole Orchard, located near North Range Road, the fellows experienced first hand how 25L Cable Systems Installer-Maintainer, commonly known as a lineman, are trained. Each fellow wired and installed a working phone and after a safety briefing, learned pole climbing techniques.

One of the TRADOC fellows was a former science teacher at a middle school in San Antonio, Texas before joining the AMC Fellows course. Although Jeramy Cook never served in the military, he understands about the demands of military life because his father was a Marine. Cook, who has four children age 1, 3, 6, and 8 years old, said the fellows program will provide a better life for his family.

"TRADOC will allow me to still teach, but earn more money than I did as a middle school teacher," Cook said.

The last tour during the trip to Fort Gordon was a visit to a Forward Operating Base where they watched a drill that simulated explosions.

The fellows also saw the type of environment Soldiers might experience while deployed in the Middle East.

For more information about the AMC Fellows Course contact Jerry Peek at (903) 334-2423 or visit the website www.amc.careers.com.



(Above) Sgt. 1st Class Henry Nesmith, an instructor for the 25L course at Fort Gordon, asks the Army Materiel Command and U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command Fellows to pull a pair of snips out of their tool kit. (Below) Lisa Albert closely examines a 600 pair cable as her classroom partner Heather Barany (seated to her right) and another fellow listen to instructions on how to install a telephone.



(Left) Raheen Crippen and Lesha Steed, Army Materiel Command and U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command Fellows, enjoy the reward of their labor by making calls to other fellows in the classroom who have correctly installed their phones.



(Left) Instructors at the 25L course show AMC and TRADOC Fellows how to correctly put on an LC 21 lineman belt. (Right) Staff Sgt. Twanette Gaines, a lineman and instructor, demonstrates safe pole climbing techniques. (Below) Instructors advise and supervise fellows climbing telephone lines at the Pole Orchard.

